

Claims: We claim:

1. A vehicle mounted storage unit capable of being mounted to a floor portion of a vehicle having juxtaposed side panels, a wheel well extending outwardly from each side panel by a first distance, a vehicle surface that is perpendicular to said side panels, said vehicle surface being spaced from the rearmost portion of said wheel wells by a second distance, said vehicle surface being movable as the inner surface of a tailgate, said vehicle mounted storage unit comprising:
  2. a mounting bracket fixed to each said floor portion of said vehicle, said mounting brackets having a width that is not greater than first distance, said mounting brackets having a length that is not greater than second distance, said mounting brackets having a height that is not greater than the height of said side panels, said mounting brackets being fixed to each said floor portion of said vehicle at mounting points adjacent to said sidewalls of said vehicle and between said wheel wells and said vehicle surface, said mounting brackets having a rigid retaining ear that prevents forward motion of said storage unit;

3. a cabinet capable of being fixed to said floor portion of said vehicle at said mounting points, said cabinet having a length, width, and height, said length of said cabinet being no greater than the width of said tailgate, said width of said cabinet being no greater than second dimension, said height of said cabinet being no greater than height of said side panels, said cabinet containing a main storage area and two sliding drawers laterally mounted in the lower portion of said cabinet, said cabinet having pivotally attached access doors on the front;
4. a slide mechanism that facilitates attachment of said cabinet to said mounting brackets and movement of said cabinet orthogonally to said mounting brackets, said slide mechanism containing a quick release mechanism that facilitates rapid release and reattachment of said cabinet to said mounting brackets;
5. a slide locking mechanism that facilitates locking of said cabinet to said rails and said mounting brackets in a fixed position, said locking mechanism simultaneously locks said sliding drawers;

6. a gas cylinder mechanism that facilitates raising and lowering said cabinet, said mechanism being securely attached to said cabinet, said mechanism being fully enclosed in said cabinet, said mechanism having readily accessible actuators, said mechanism capable of raising said cabinet above its locked height, said mechanism capable of operating when said cabinet is dismounted from vehicle, said mechanism capable of operating when said cabinet is mounted in vehicle;
7. a wheel platform that facilitates rolling of said cabinet, said platform being securely attached to said bottom of gas cylinder mechanism, said wheel platform having a plurality of wheels on its lower surface, said wheels protruding below the lower surface of said cabinet when said gas cylinder mechanism is fully retracted;
8. a safety belt mechanism that prevents sudden movement of said cabinet, said mechanism comprising a belt retractor securely attached to one of said mounting brackets, said mechanism having a quick release mechanism securely attached to the opposing

mounting bracket, said safety belt being attached to said cabinet on the rear surface;

9. an upper surface lid that facilitates workbench functions, said upper surface being pivotally attached to said cabinet, said upper surface extending over the sides of said cabinet within the width limitations of said tailgate, said upper surface containing measurement and alignment aids, said upper surface containing handholds to facilitate movement of said cabinet, said lid having a front lip that covers the upper front portion of said cabinet and prevents said hinged access doors from opening when said lid is closed;